

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND THE ORGANIC ACT OF
GUAM FOR THE PURPOSES OF
CLARIFYING THE LOCAL JUDI-
CIAL STRUCTURE OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to amend the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Guam Judiciary as the third, co-equal and independent branch of the Government of Guam. My bill also clarifies that the Supreme Court of Guam shall have authority over all inferior courts in the Guam Judiciary.

Currently, the Guam Legislature and the Guam Executive Branch have the power to abolish the Supreme Court of Guam, and as such, may infringe upon the Judiciary's independence. This unequal balance of power was created by the 1984 Omnibus Territories Act which authorized the creation of an appellate court on Guam; however, this statute unintentionally left the newly created court subordinate to the powers of the Legislature and the Executive. My bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam remedies this unacceptable situation by making the Supreme Court of Guam an "Organic" court equal in stature to the other branches of government and providing the Guam Judiciary the same protection as the other branches have in their status under the Organic Act of Guam. Just as the Governor cannot disband the Legislature, and the Legislature cannot abolish the Executive, so too should the Judiciary be free from the threat of abolishment by the Legislative or Executive branches if their judicial decisions come under political fire. The Guam Judiciary needs to be insulated from the possibility of political interference by the Legislative and Executive branches, and the balance of power among these branches needs to be restored and protected.

This bill has received strong support from the Supreme Court of Guam, the Guam Bar Association, along with various members of the Guam Legislature, including Speaker Vicente (Ben) C. Pangelinan. In addition, Senator F. Randall Cunliffe, Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Transportation in the 27th Guam Legislature, fully supports this bill.

The bill I am introducing today is in the same form as reported out by the Committee on Resources in the 107th Congress. This bill has evolved since it was first introduced in the 105th Congress by former Congressman Robert Underwood, my predecessor, as the Guam Judicial Empowerment Act, and in its current form, this bill reflects improvements suggested by the U.S. District Court of Guam and the Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam in recognition of the importance of having a strong Judiciary and in furtherance of Guam's efforts to achieve the greatest amount of self-governance possible. I look forward to working with the leadership on this issue, and I hope that this legislation would be reported expeditiously to the House by the Committee on Resources for consideration on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES
NATHANSON

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of a valuable San Diego leader, Dr. Charles Nathanson. He was a unique individual because he developed the capacity to create dialogue among important leaders of differing views on the critical issues of our region.

Chuck was valued not only by a host of San Diego's leading citizens but also by those in Baja California and our metropolitan partner Tijuana.

At the University of California San Diego in 1991, Chuck founded the San Diego Dialogue, which brought over 150 regional leaders together on a frequent basis for panel discussions on the challenges to our community. He fostered the binational Forum Fronterizo Council, which held well-attended bilingual luncheon meetings to hear distinguished speakers from both sides of the border.

Baja California Governor Eugenio Elorduy Walther, co-Chairman of the Forum Fronterizo Council, quoted in a local newspaper obituary, recognized Dr. Nathanson as "the spark plug" of San Diego Dialogue as its Executive Director.

President of San Diego State University, Stephen Weber, also noted, "He understood we can never be separated from our friends and neighbors in Mexico . . ."

While his work building human bridges across our international border was his best known focus, he also volunteered his skills to create dialogue between the opposing sides on San Diego issues and gave endless personal energy to resolve differences. He formed a distinguished panel of city leaders, leading educators, and legislators to develop a common understanding of the critical issues we faced locally in education.

As both a journalist and a professor of Sociology, Chuck understood the importance of facts and of making those results part of public discussion. Realizing that basic information was critical to good educational decisions, he found the resources to have his staff undertake an important study of how minority parents interact within their school community.

I particularly appreciate that Dr. Nathanson sponsored a study of the reasons people cross the border into San Diego. It showed that many people repeatedly enter San Diego for education and shopping, and this led to the development of a fast-track, electronic inspection lane called SENTRI. Indeed, I am currently working on legislation to expedite access to this successful program.

He was hailed in the local press by Robert Dynes, the Chancellor of the University of California San Diego, as serving "town and gown superbly as strategist, ambassador, activist and taskmaster."

Born in Detroit August 22, 1941, Charles E. Nathanson graduated from Harvard and worked as a journalist and manager of a chain of weeklies before earning a doctorate in sociology at Brandeis University.

The broad spectrum of his interests included serving on a number of cultural and civic boards addressing the breadth of issues af-

fecting the future of the region including education, business, transportation, and housing. Typically, he had become a member of the advisory group for one of San Diego's newest projects, development of the Immigrant Museum of the New Americas.

San Diego and Baja California have been uniquely served by this determined visionary. Chuck Nathanson has left an indelible heritage for our region.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN POST

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Jonathan Post from Colorado's Pueblo County Sheriff's Department. Jonathan was recently recognized with his department's Medal of Valor. Although he has worked with the Department only a short time, he has already served with great distinction and I would like to acknowledge Jonathan's service before this body of Congress and this nation.

In February of this year, Jonathan arrived at the scene of a fire where two men were trapped inside. Although the structure was in danger of collapse, Jonathan entered the building to save the two men alongside his fellow officer, Fred Cortese. Unfortunately, the men that Jonathan and Fred were attempting to rescue were not initially cooperative, being unaware of the imminent danger they faced. Even after successfully getting the men to safety through a window exit, it became necessary for Jonathan and Fred to rescue one of the men a second time when he disregarded their orders and rushed back into his burning home.

Mr. Speaker, it is dedicated men and women like Jonathan that work selflessly to protect our rights and freedoms. I would like to draw attention to the further service he has shown to our country as a Marine Reservist serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I extend my gratitude to Jonathan for the heroism he has shown and for the great services he has performed for Colorado and for this Nation.

RECOGNIZING OF EVELYN H.
LAUDER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Evelyn Lauder, who will be presented tonight with The Alice Award by the Sewall Belmont House and Museum. As founder and chairman of The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Mrs. Lauder has devoted her life to the fight against breast cancer. She is a shining example of how much one individual with unrelenting passion can accomplish.

A woman of boundless compassion and generosity towards others, Mrs. Lauder has touched countless lives through her efforts in leading The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. She has spearheaded the growth of what